

Departmental Organization

The Department includes two programmatic divisions: the Division of Registration and Health Evaluation, and the Division of Enforcement, Environmental Monitoring and Data Management. Each programmatic division has branches that are responsible for carrying out DPR's objectives through established programs. A third division, Administrative Services, provides general support services.

Division of Registration and Health Evaluation

Pesticide Registration Branch

The Pesticide Registration Branch is responsible for product registration and coordinates the required evaluation process among DPR branches and other State agencies. A pesticide must be registered (licensed) with DPR before it can be used, possessed, or offered for sale in California. The Pesticide Registration Branch serves as primary liaison to registrants. The Branch prepares public notices and corresponds with registrants regarding data requirements, determinations of the health effects of pesticides, and final actions on registrations. Branch scientists share data review responsibilities with staff scientists in other branches. The Branch also manages all data received; oversees call-ins of data on environmental fate and acute and chronic toxicology, and other data needed under a reevaluation; maintains product label files and the pesticide data library; and provides information on registered pesticides and label instructions to pesticide enforcement agencies and the public. The Branch maintains chemical ingredient and product/label databases that the public can access on the Department's external Web page.

Medical Toxicology Branch

The Medical Toxicology Branch has two major functions: review of toxicology studies and preparation of risk assessments. DPR requires a registrant to submit data on a product's potential chronic, subchronic, and acute health effects.² Medical Toxicology staff scientists review the data for: new active ingredients and new products containing currently registered active ingredients; label amendments on currently registered products which include major new uses; and reevaluation of currently registered active ingredients. These reviews are mandated under the Department's general authority to register pesticides and under various specific statutory mandates.

Staff scientists review toxicology data for adequacy and indications of possible adverse health effects. They use the results of these reviews and exposure information from other branches to assess the adequacy of product labels, and to conduct health risk evaluations and risk assessments that estimate the potential for adverse health effects in humans. These assessments are then peer-reviewed by Cal/EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHa) and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Worker Health and Safety Branch

The Worker Health and Safety Branch is generally responsible for characterizing human exposure, assessing safety, and developing mitigation mechanisms when needed. The Branch's Exposure Characterization and Assessment Program develops human

² Chronic toxicity refers to adverse effects from many repeated exposures over the greater portion of a lifetime. Subchronic toxicity refers to adverse effects from exposures of intermediate timeframes, often 30 to 90 days. Acute toxicity refers to adverse effects from a one-time or very few exposures.

exposure assessments for use in the Department's risk characterization documents. In addition, staff scientists review pesticide registrant protocols and audit registrant exposure monitoring studies conducted in California.

The Branch's Workplace Evaluation & Industrial Hygiene Program evaluates pesticide products and labeling for effectiveness in controlling exposure hazards and recommends additional safety measures when needed. The Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program (PISP) analyzes investigations of pesticide-related illnesses conducted by County Agricultural Commissioners. The PISP database helps validate the effectiveness of exposure control measures and identifies areas where improvements are needed.

The Exposure Monitoring Program staff designs and conducts field studies to characterize exposure to pesticides. Staff develops exposure monitoring methods to respond to new exposure situations and incorporate technological developments to refine exposure estimates. Staff provides medical advice and assistance to practicing physicians on pesticide exposures, and assist County Agricultural Commissioners when necessary on illness investigations. Staff also investigates unsafe work conditions detected by the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program.

Division of Enforcement and Environmental Monitoring

Pesticide Enforcement Branch

The Pesticide Enforcement Branch's primary responsibility is to enforce federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to the proper and safe use of pesticides. The Branch has overall responsibility for pesticide incident investigations and enforcement actions. It administers the nation's largest state pesticide residue monitoring program and conducts outreach and compliance activities.

The Branch also inspects and samples pesticide products to determine whether a product is registered, the labeling requirements are met, and the product formulation meets the quality guaranteed by the registrant. Pesticide use enforcement activities in the field are largely carried out by County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) and their staffs (approximately 400 biologists) in California's 58 counties. Enforcement Branch staff provides training, coordination, supervision, and technical support to the CACs.

Environmental Monitoring Branch

The Environmental Monitoring Branch monitors the environment to determine the fate of pesticides, protecting the public and the environment from pesticide contamination through analyzing hazards and developing pollution prevention strategies. The Branch's Environmental Hazards and Assessment Program (EHAP) provides environmental monitoring data required for emergency eradication projects, environmental contamination assessments, pesticide registration, pesticide use enforcement, and human exposure evaluations. EHAP takes the lead in implementing many of the Department's environmental protection programs.

Pest Management and Licensing Branch

This, the Department's newest branch, has four major programs. The Pest Management Analysis and Planning Program (PMAP) evaluates pesticide and pest management problems and provides information and grants to develop new strategies that reduce adverse environmental impacts and hazards from pesticide use. The Branch also oversees licensing and certification of dealers, pesticide brokers, agricultural pest control advisers, pest control businesses, and applicators; manages the Endangered Species Program; and collects, reviews, corrects, and analyzes pesticide use reporting data.

Division of Administrative Services

The Division of Administrative Services provides those services necessary for running a state department, such as personnel, accounting, budgeting, contracting, and other related functions. The Division includes the Financial Management, Personnel Services, Audit and Information Technology branches. Audit Branch is responsible for auditing DPR's internal programs, the pesticide regulatory and enforcement programs supported by the mill assessment, and mill assessment payments by registrants, brokers and dealers. The Information Technology Branch provides support services to the Department, including coordination, evaluation and implementation of information technology needs and overall coordination of data processing activities. Activities include programming and network support and configuration, database management and security, and design and maintenance of internal and external Web pages.

Organization chart

